Appl. No. 10/618,433 Amdt. dated August 23, 2004 Preliminary Amendment

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 3-15 with the following amended paragraph:

Management software uses an identify identifier inherent to a data processing device to grasp a connection relationship. For example, according to a fibre channel (FC) application for storage area network (SAN), a worldwide name (WWN) is adopted as an identifier. The WWN is represented by an integer of 64 bits associated with an FC communication port or a data processing device. Moreover, the Internet small computer systems interface (iSCSI) protocol stipulates the employment of an iSCSI name as an identifier. Furthermore, in a storage network adopting the transmission control protocol/Internet protocol (TCP/IP) such as the iSCSI, iFCP, or NAS, and IP address assigned to a communication port may be used as an identifier.